

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants have canceled all of the rejected claims (claims 1 - 3) in order to expedite prosecution of the remaining allowed claims. These claims may be pursued in a continuation application.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4 - 20 are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

August 6, 2004

